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DEGENERATIVE ENZYMES(U) TEXAS A AND M UNIV COLLEGE
STATION DEPT OF BIOCHEMISTRY AND BIOPHYSICS E F MEYER
30 APR 87 N00014-86-K-0662

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MICROCOPY RESOLUTION TEST CHART
NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS-1963-A

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

1a. REPORT SECURITY CLASSIFICATION U			1b. RESTRICTIVE MARKINGS NA		
2a. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY NA			2b. DECLASSIFICATION / DOWNGRADING SCHEDULE NA		
4. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER(S) Texas A&M University			5. MONITORING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER(S) NA		
6a. NAME OF PERFORMING ORGANIZATION Texas A&M University			6b. OFFICE SYMBOL (if applicable) NA		
6c. ADDRESS (City, State, and ZIP Code) Department of Biochemistry & Biophysics Texas A&M University College Station, Texas 77843-2128			7a. NAME OF MONITORING ORGANIZATION Office of Naval Research		
7b. ADDRESS (City, State, and ZIP Code) 800 N. Quincy Street Arlington, VA 22217-5000			9. PROCUREMENT INSTRUMENT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER N00014-86-K-0662		
8a. NAME OF FUNDING / SPONSORING ORGANIZATION Office of Naval Research			8b. OFFICE SYMBOL (if applicable) ONR		
8c. ADDRESS (City, State, and ZIP Code) 800 N. Quincy Street Arlington, VA 22217-5000			10. SOURCE OF FUNDING NUMBERS		
			PROGRAM ELEMENT NO. 61153N		
			PROJECT NO. RR04106		
			TASK NO.		
			WORK UNIT ACCESSION NO.		
11. TITLE (Include Security Classification) Progress Report: ...Degenerative Enzymes....					
12. PERSONAL AUTHOR(S) Edgar F. Meyer, Jr. <i>E. Meyer</i>					
13a. TYPE OF REPORT Annual/Technical		13b. TIME COVERED FROM 7/1/85 TO 4/87		14. DATE OF REPORT (Year, Month, Day) 30 April 1987	
15. PAGE COUNT 2					
16. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTATION					
17. COSATI CODES			18. SUBJECT TERMS (Continue on reverse if necessary and identify by block number)		
FIELD	GROUP	SUB-GROUP	Molecular structure:Function, X-ray Crystallography		
19. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse if necessary and identify by block number)					
To date, using high-resolution X-ray crystallography, we have determined the structures of 10 small molecule ligands or inhibitors to the serine protease, porcine pancreatic elastase. These complexes reveal details of binding or steps on the catalytic pathway (Michaelis complex, acyl intermediate, transition state intermediate) that now can be used to design novel, more specific inhibitors or intermediates. <i>Keywords: Enzyme inhibitors</i>					
20. DISTRIBUTION / AVAILABILITY OF ABSTRACT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNCLASSIFIED UNLIMITED <input type="checkbox"/> SAME AS RPT <input type="checkbox"/> DTIC USERS			21. ABSTRACT SECURITY CLASSIFICATION U		
22a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUAL Dr. M. Marron			22b. TELEPHONE (Include Area Code) (202) 696-4760		22c. OFFICE SYMBOL ONR

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1. Project Goals

- A. Test the enzyme mechanism: The tetrapeptide, Pro-Ala-Pro-Tyr bound to porcine pancreatic elastase (PPE), has been studied (J. Mol. Biol. (1986) 190, 259-267). A sequel study is now in progress; "forward" binding in the active site is found.
- B. Test the enzyme mechanism: The azapeptide, Suc-Ala-Ala-Pro-azaAla, did not bind to PPE due to blockage at the S4 site. Further study will be made with a shortened azapeptide; this should help capture a reaction intermediate.
- C. Inhibitor binding: Several studies of newer isocoumarins have been made using low-resolution diffractometer as well as high-resolution film data. In all cases either the PPE active site was "empty" or else the low electron density indicated statistical disorder. Prof. Powers has found an approximate 50:50 distribution of two competing reactions (nucleophile = His 57 or OH-) over a broad pH range (Biochem. (1985) 24, 7200-7213). Some inhibitors are too insoluble in aqueous buffers to yield complexes, in the face of competing reactions (e.g., hydrolysis).
- D. Inhibitor binding: Insufficient resources (data collection, manpower) have kept us from studying 3-benzyl-yne-enol-butyrolactone.
- E. Inhibitor binding: A low-resolution data set of the ketoester showed no binding, presumably because of blockage at the S4 site. A shorter ketoester was made available to us very recently. Synthesis of a shorter inhibitor is now in progress.
- F. The structure of human leucocyte elastase (HLE) has been solved (EMBO Journal (1986) 5, 2453-2458); preliminary structural data are being used to study differential binding of inhibitors between PPE and HLE.



Availability Codes	
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4. Synopsis

a) List of publications

"Computer Aided Prediction and Evaluation of the Tertiary Structure of Rat Elastase II", Gail M. Carlson, Raymond J. MacDonald, and Edgar F. Meyer, Jr., J. Theoretical Biology (1986) 119, 107-124.

"Structure of the Product of Acetyl-Ala-Pro-Ala with Porcine Pancreatic Elastase at 1.65Å Resolution", E.F. Meyer, Jr., R. Radhakrishnan, G.M. Cole, and L.G. Presta, J. Mol. Biol. (1986) 189, 533-539.

"Stereochemistry of Binding of the Tetrapeptide Acetyl-Pro-Ala-Pro-Tyr-NH₂ to Porcine Pancreatic Elastase...", M.C. Clore, A. Gorenborn, G. Carlson and E.F. Meyer, Jr., J. Mol. Biol. (1986) 190, 259-267.

"Intermolecular Enzyme-Ligand Animation in the Active Site of Porcine Pancreatic Elastase with Acetyl-Alanine-Proline-Alanine by means of Molecular Dynamics Calculations", T. Fujita, S.M. Swanson, and E.F. Meyer, Jr., J. Mol. Graphics (1986) 4, 208-212.

"Prediction of Protein-Ligand Interactions: The Complex of Porcine Pancreatic Elastase with a Valine-Derived Denzoxazinone", L.G. Presta and E.F. Meyer, Jr, (1986), Biopolymers, submitted.

"X-ray Crystal Structure of the Complex of Human Leucocyte Elastase (PMN Elastase) and the Third Domain of the Turkey Ovomucoid Inhibitor", W. Bode, An-Zhi Wei, R. Huber, E. Meyer, J. Travis, and S. Neumann, EMBO Journal (1986) 5, 2453-2358.

"The Study and Design of Specific Inhibitors to Elastase", E. Meyer and W. Bode, in "Progress in QSAR; QSAR in Drug Design and Toxicology, 1987, 247-254, D. Madzi and B. Jerman-Blazic, Eds., Elsevier, Amsterdam.

"A Structure:Function Study of Receptor + Substrate Interactions Derived from High-Resolution X-ray Crystallography" in "Molecular Structure: Chemical Reactivity and Biological Activity", J. Stezowski, ed., Oxford University Press, in press.

c) Major Presentations

"A Structure-Function Study of Receptor + Substrate Interactions Derived from High-Resolution X-ray Crystallography", presented at an International Symposium in Beijing, China, September 15-21, 1986.

"The Study and Design of Specific Inhibitors to Elastase", presented at the 6th European Symposium on Quantitative Structure-Activity Relationships, Portorose, Yugoslavia, September 22-26, 1986.

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